

## Healing Naaman 2 Kings 5:1-14

Do you remember the “iron lung?” Dianne Odell was a [Tennessee](#) woman who spent most of her life in an [iron lung](#).

Man is trapped in an “iron lung” - our own inability to save ourselves. Anything spiritual has to come from outside, from God, because we are not going anywhere on our own. Naaman is a great reminder of this very fact.

### NAAMAN HAS A PROBLEM - 5:1:

Naaman was a mighty military commander of Aram or Syria, whose capital was Damascus, not far from Israel. “But” Naaman was also a leper. So fearful was man of leprosy that they believed only God could cure it, as we see in the response of the King of Israel in verse 7.

Spiritual leprosy - otherwise known as sin - is also contagious and even more deadly. When the Bible pictures forgiveness as being “clean” or being “washed (as in John 15:3 and 1 Corinthians 6:11),” it has in the background the imagery of leprosy.

### A SLAVE GIRL HAS A SOLUTION - 5:2-5:

Well, in Naaman’s case the solution just happened to be right under his nose. Now, you might ask yourself, “Was this kind to that little girl? Was it kind of God to allow her to be kidnapped and taken away from her mom and dad?” I know that this young girl, despite being hauled away from her homeland, did not leave her faith in God behind.

When it comes to the problem of sin, God has hidden the solution from the “wise and prudent” - the men of the wisdom of this world, and has revealed it to the babes. Humility before God goes a long way in understanding the message of God.

### MAN DOES NOT KNOW - 5:6-7:

The King of Israel overreacts to the letter. The King of Israel did not have an answer to Naaman’s problem. He thought the Arameans were looking for another excuse to wage war!

No, man does not have a solution to the problem of sin. Do not ask your preacher what to do to be saved. Tell your friends not to ask their pastor what to do to be saved. Solomon says in Proverbs 14:12: “There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Man doesn’t know what to do to be saved. You better ask God!

### GOD GIVES THE SOLUTION - 5:8-10:

Dip in the Jordan River seven times and you will be clean. This is God’s solution. It takes faith and it requires obedience. In Naaman’s case, it will also involve a miracle - that’s to let Naaman know that there is a prophet in Israel. Dip seven times. That’s it. Pretty simple but it’s powerful stuff - it took faith, it required obedience but the grace of

God would be evident when Naaman came out of that water the seventh time, pure from leprosy with skin as clean as a newborn baby's.

When it comes to the problem of sin, we must give book, chapter, and verse. You know why you don't trust what man says we need to do to be forgiven of our sins? Because they do not say the same thing Peter said on the day of Pentecost. They do not say the same thing Jesus said before He went back to heaven.

But still...

#### MAN WANTS TO ARGUE WITH GOD - 5:11-12:

Man always wants to argue with God. We are impotent and ignorant when it comes to God but man still wants to argue. Naaman saw no point in it. God's way doesn't make sense. So, he went away in a rage, the Bible says.

Today, when you tell people, no, you don't accept Jesus into your heart to be saved, they get mad. They start saying things like, "I believe you are saved by the grace of Jesus," as if we do not. People get mad when you point out that the church where they worship is not obeying what God says to do. We hold religion very close to our hearts - and rightly so - but too often, it's a religion of our own thinking - just like Naaman. "Behold I thought."

The fact of the biblical matter is...

#### WHEN MAN OBEYS, GOD GIVES GRACE - 5:13-14:

Just like with the servant girl, here we see wonderful wisdom exhibited from the least likely source. This servant - and that's the nature of a good servant, they are humble - this servant humbly says to his valiant warrior-master: "Had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

There are five steps in the plan of salvation, just like there were seven times Naaman needed to dip in the Jordan River.

Naaman dipped one time - nothing. If you hear the word, you won't be saved. Naaman dipped a third time - nothing. If you believe the Gospel message, you're on your way to salvation but you are not there yet. Naaman dipped a fourth time - nothing. If you repent of your sins, you are not saved yet. Nowhere does the New Testament teach that repentance puts you into Christ. If you confess your faith in Jesus Christ, you have done something that the majority of people will not do, but you are not saved yet. It wasn't until Naaman dipped that seventh time that he received the grace of God. It will not be until you complete your obedience in immersion in the waters of baptism that you will receive the grace of God (Ephesians 5:26).

In faith, take God at His word, you'll receive His grace, and you'll make it to heaven.

Your fellow-servant in Christ,

Paul

*Veritas non verba magistri*